

First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

From the Pastor's Desk.....



In This Issue...

 Lifelong Learner 2

 Praying Follower 4

 Passionate Worshipper 6

 Dedicated Missionary 6

 Relationship Builder 7

 Generous Giver 9

As we enter November and the season of Thanksgiving, your responses to our worship series "I ♥ My Church" was a reminder of all the blessings and thanks we should give to God for all that God provides. Oct 19-25 I was able to lead a team of 8 adults from First Church on a mission trip. Throughout every day and especially in nightly devotions we were reminded of God's faithfulness and blessings that even when life is hard, God is still good and present. Sarah Jones who went on the trip shares this reflection below about her experience. I give thanks for all the ways First Church is alive in being the church in Mechanicsburg and far beyond.

-Pastor Mira

"Our team from Mechanicsburg PA, plus one from Virginia Beach and another from Staunton VA, gathered at Carolina Rebuild's headquarters in Eastern North Carolina to make a difference. We were excited to go to our assigned locations and help the homeowners fix their homes.

My team of 5 headed to the small home of a young mother with two daughters. A prison guard by day and a mom who went to her daughters' sporting events in the evenings, she had little time, resources or expertise to repair her home. This was the home she inherited from her grandmother. A home that was in disrepair from years of storm damage and leaking pipes. Every room in the house needed new windows, subflooring and various repairs. I could understand being overwhelmed with it all, and wondering where to start first. She had been on a waiting list for two years. Now for the first time a team, our team, had come to start the needed repairs.

We were thankful to God for the great weather that let us stage things outside and two friendly pit bull mixes that became our unofficial mascots - Salt-N-Peppa. We were also thankful for two bathrooms so at least one of them was functioning while we tore up the bathroom floor in the other. The homeowner was also able to help us out a few days and learned some basic repair skills along the way.

Extensive water-damaged flooring and subflooring caused our plans of finishing two rooms to change to the hope of getting one room partially completed. I was feeling a little defeated in not completing everything we wanted to complete, but God had other plans.

At the beginning of this mission trip I wanted to shine God's light onto others, and to be His hands and feet. I reflected that some day, a day in my distant future, a person may need to shine their God given light on me. But that 'some day' was immediate; and it was in the form of a letter from the homeowners, thanking us for everything. Everything included the hard work, big dedication, motivation, and just the small talks we had with her. Her letter said that she and her girls now had HOPE. She wrote that she will never forget us and how her life shone bright, but we made it brighter. Her daughter told her that God did it for her because she sang about it all the time. The song the homeowner sang was "Lord Do It For Me" by Zacardi Cortez. It's a wonderful song and I encourage you to give it a listen.

These words from the homeowner washed away my feelings that we didn't get enough done, that what we did and said mattered. We weren't just the hands and feet of God, but the ears to listen and the mouths to speak of His grace. My body may ache a little, but my heart is light. And I praise Him for this experience.

My hope is that we can all shine His light on each other, and make this world a little less dark."

-Sarah Jones



Sunday Morning Enrichment | 9:45-10:45 | Sunday Mornings

Sunday School:

This is a wonderful opportunity to find consistency and accountability in your faith journey while studying God's Word. Here are the list of opportunities for enrichment during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 AM). We look forward to growing together!

◆ **Growing in Christ, B006**

A welcoming group that enjoys digging deeper into the Scriptures to seek the knowledge and wisdom to apply Scriptural truths in our everyday lives. The class generally consists of prayer, a video, and a group discussion. Drop in for a single class, or a specific study, or stay as long as you like! If interested, contact Marjorie Snyder at 57masnyder@gmail.com.

◆ **Christian Fellowship, Room B003**

A friendly and caring group of adults, eager to apply God's Word to life's challenges. The class generally explores scripture and faith themes through book or video-based series. If interested, contact Wayne Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com.

◆ **Helping Hands, Room B004**

A group of active seniors who focus on encouraging instructions for faithful living, and who enjoy fellowship activities together outside of class. If interested, contact Bob Wertz, Sr., at robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com.

◆ **Guyer Class, Room 123**

This class, comprised of a wonderful group of seniors who are young at heart, is taught by a variety of church leaders. Lessons follow the Adult Bible Study series which includes daily devotions. If interested, contact Steve and Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com.

Small Groups:

There are also Small Groups that regularly meet during the Sunday School hour and strive to not only support each other through faith growth in a classroom space, but also through fellowship and connection as they navigate similar stages of life.

◆ **Faithful Families**

Contact: Bob and Tracy Wertz at wertzfive@gmail.com. An active group of parents with college-aged and young adult children who study Scripture, encourage one another and celebrate life together in and out of the classroom.

◆ **Faith in Everyday Life**

Contact: Amy at amyerno@gmail.com or Jenell at jparis@messiah.edu. A group for adults of all ages focused on fellowship and friendship/mutual support in and outside the classroom.

Discipleship Opportunities:

No matter whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple, or becoming a fully devoted follower, there is always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

• **Daily Bible Reading Plan**

God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan in our weekly worship bulletin and on our church website, fumchurch.com.

- **Wednesday Men's Group – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 8:00 p.m.**

This group enjoys great fellowship while focusing on discussion-based Bible studies. Contact John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if interested in more information.

- **United Women in Faith Circle Groups:**

United Women in Faith Circle groups are small, local communities within the United Women in Faith organization, a mission-focused group for women within the United Methodist Church. These circles are where women gather for spiritual formation, mutual support, fellowship, mission education, and to take action on issues of justice at local and global levels.

- * **Martha Circle** – Leader: Marley Ann Schmick

- This circle meets in the church Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM, and members rotate in helping to lead lessons.

- * **Deborah Circle** – Leader: Sandy Walton

- This circle meets every other month at church in room 105 at 7:00 PM (Sept 4, Nov 4, Jan 6, Mar 3, May 5) and meets together off-site for a meal on the opposite months. This circle has been studying women of the Bible.

- **Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study** – Wednesday 9:30-10:45 AM | Hardwood Cafe

Join other women at the round tables under the balcony as we explore together the books of 1st and 2nd Peter. Sign up on Church Center or at the Registration Table in the Main Lobby. Participants will need the workbook: 1-2 Peter: Living Hope in a Hard World by Lydia Brownback. The study began on Wednesday, September 24th, , but you are welcome to still join. Contact Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com for more information.

- **Growing Together** – Sunday November 16th | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Hardwood Café

Paul writes to the Philippians that he is truly happy when believers are agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose (Phil 2:2). We too, value learning and serving together with one heart and one mission. Several times throughout the year, we will have a Growing Together opportunity following the 11:00 AM service. Stick around after service at the round tables in the green chair side of the sanctuary. We will provide lunch and a learning/service activity for any and all ages. Registration is encouraged to help us plan for food and accommodate any dietary restrictions. Registration is on Church Center and at the Registration Table. Reach out to Katie Knorr with questions. Future Dates: January 4, March 15, April 19

United Women in Faith Annual Day, November 15

All women are invited to the Harrisburg District Annual Day on Saturday, November 15 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Wesley United Methodist Church, Marysville. The program will feature a panel discussion with representatives from Peace Promise, She's Somebody's Daughter, Greenlight Operation and Hope, Love, Inspire (organizations that raise awareness of trafficking and exploitation). The afternoon workshops will be a simulation activity and a testimony from a woman with lived experience regarding recovery and after care. The fee will be \$12 and includes a lunch with a Southwest theme, taco bar, beans, and rice with faux margaritas! Questions or registration information, contact Amy Whitworth, District President at amy.whitworth@pacourts.us.



Advent Devotional Books

Grab a free Advent Devotional in the main lobby before the start of Advent. Bookswill be available mid-November and are a great pairing to the sermon series during the weeks of Advent.

From the Library

As I write this in October, today is the beginning of fall for me—no matter what the calendar says as I got out a long sleeve shirt and a jacket. As soon as I finish this I will be finishing the new Jan Karon book, *My Beloved*. If you haven't read that yet, it's a treat almost as good as chocolate. But back to some new books. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I thought you might enjoy the *French Kitchen* by Kristy Cambron. This is a historical fiction book that is set in the 1950's but flashes back to the war years. Julia Child is one of the supporting characters, Kat Fontaine's cooking instructor. What I didn't know was that Ms. Child was an actual member of the OSS during the war. I could hardly believe this six foot woman with a penetrating voice could have been a spy, so I looked her up. Yes, she was in the OSS, but she wasn't a field agent but more or less a secretary. Ms. Cambron has taken a bit of literary license in Child's part in the book. With the background of French cooking, this novel of the war years in France is entertaining. Throw in a bit of romance and what is not to love? This book was donated by Hoffnagle's daughter, Rachel.



During the holidays I always feel the need for some light reading, and Denise Hunter often fills the bill. Her latest book, *The Second Story Bookshop* checks all the boxes of sweet romance, relatable characters, and a good plot. Main character Shelby Thatcher has always loved working in her grandmother's bookstore and when Gram dies, Shelby is shocked to learn that she is the co-owner with the Gray Briggs, the man that shattered Shelby's heart years ago. Not only did he break her heart, but he also ruined his reputation and the whole town seemed to turn against him. As soon as high school ended he left town and thought it was all behind him. But with the inheritance, they are thrown together again. Could Gran be scheming from beyond the grave? Can they work together and even more importantly will they find a way to love again? Curl up in your favorite chair and relax a bit in this holiday season.

Stop in the library and our volunteer will help you find just the right book for you!! Plus with cold weather coming, you might want to take a jigsaw puzzle for entertainment.

See you in the library!

-Pam, Marge, Mary, Annette, Deb, & Donna

Praying Follower



Women's Retreat, January 23 to 25, 2026

Our 2026 women's retreat, "Awakening Awe, Rediscovering God's Greatness." will be held at Rhodes Grove Retreat Center, 7693 Browns Mill Road, Chambersburg. Lisa Aronson will lead us in experiencing a central element of worship: Awe. We will explore the profound importance of rekindling our sense of wonder in a culture that often dulls our spiritual sense. Together we will learn to stand in awe of God and reignite our hearts with amazement, empowering us to carry that sense of awe back into our daily lives. Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, food and faith! Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday before noon. Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals are included. We are pleased to offer a One-Day option (lunch and dinner included)! You can find the registration form at the sign-up table in the church lobby (outside the multipurpose room), on the Church Center App or send an email to Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com. All women are welcome!

Joy in the Morning - Nov. 10 at 1:00 p.m.

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this small group. We meet monthly on a Monday afternoon at Bethany

Village's West Apartments Commons Room. Janice Bowen facilitates, drawing upon readings and devotionals. For more info.,information, contact Janice (717-766-4611 x112 /or wecare@fumchurch.com)

Lent Devotions

Help us create a First Church devotional for Lent. Lent is a season of preparation - a time of deep reflection and honest confession as we move with Jesus towards the cross and to the personal challenge of sharing in Christ's sacrifice and living fully for Him. You can submit a Lent Devotional to Lisa any time before January 11 th (the sooner, the better!)

Devotions should include the following

- A scripture reference
- A few paragraph centered on the idea of "Pause", 300 words or less.
- A one to two sentence prayer
- Your name

Lent is a time to pause, to take a breath, and reflect. We see Jesus intentionally stepping away to be with his Father as he readied himself for Holy Week. Let's do the same – pause with intention. Let us find a place of stillness that helps us to reflect. What scriptures have given you pause in your life? Is there a scripture that caused you to reflect on a characteristic of God? When you need to take a breath and slow down, what scripture do you turn towards? Has a scripture helped you draw closer to God or deeper into faith?

Submissions can be emailed to Lisa at discipleship@fumchurch.com.

Prayer is on the Move at First Church!

We are excited to be developing new points of connection for joining us together as a church family united in prayer for one another! We invite you to submit prayer joys and concerns anytime in the new 'Prayer Drop Box' located in the main lobby on the sign-up sideboard!



We also are sprucing-up an inviting space to serve as a Prayer Room. Do you know where this room can be found in the church?



And an additional box will be ear-marked to receive prayer joys and concerns. Can you find this one?



Looking forward to receiving your requests for prayer and joining you in prayer conversation as we bring our prayers before God!

Passionate Worshipper



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | Nov. 23, 6 pm at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church

Please mark your calendar for this year's West Shore Interfaith Thanksgiving service, Sunday November 23rd at 6pm at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church, (14 State Road in Mechanicsburg). A time to hear how the three Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Islam, Christianity) give thanks, with spoken and musical sharings and a time of fellowship following the service. This service has been a blessing for all who attend. Attendees are encouraged to be a blessing to our community by bringing a non-perishable food donation for New Hope Ministries.

Advent Workshop Event, November 30

Join us in the multipurpose room on Sunday, November 30 to create and package a gift item for our members who worship at home. All materials will be provided with simple instructions to help make our at-home members feel loved and remembered. This activity is for all ages! Just pop in after the 8:30 am or 11:00 am worship services to lend your hand at bringing joy this Christmas season. Snacks will be provided!

Dedicated Missionary



Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry Food Preparing and Serving

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. To find out how to get involved, contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com. Now that we are also preparing the food, in addition to serving, we are looking for more help. If you have an interest in serving our friends in Harrisburg or learn how you can volunteer, contact Tiffany Holland or Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

The Marketplace of Miracles is Back!

We are pleased to announce that the Marketplace of Miracles will once again be held alongside the Youth Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 am to noon. This year, we welcome, Peace Promise, She's Somebody's Daughter, Greenlight Operation, Northstar and Hope.Inspire.Love. These organizations provide support and advocate for survivors of human trafficking and exploitation. Information about their organizations will be available along with items for purchase to support their mission. This event is sponsored by the United Women in Faith. If you would like to learn more about any of these organizations or United Women in Faith, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

Greeting Cards to Share!

Looking for a birthday card or wanting to send 'get well' wishes to a friend? Stop by the 'Card Ministry' display in the lobby outside the multipurpose room and help yourself to a card! If you'd like a bigger supply of cards or suggestions of who may appreciate receiving a card, please contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112)

First Church Service Shirts

If you ordered a shirt, they are in the main lobby marked with your name. Please take your shirt and submit payment if not already done so. If you still wish to order a shirt, please fill out the order

form, and your shirt will be placed in your church mailbox.

The First Church Service Shirts are designed to unite and identify us as we serve together in our community. Whether you're volunteering at an outreach event, helping with church ministries, or participating in a mission project, these shirts are a simple and powerful way to represent First Church with love and purpose. Wearing a service shirt not only helps others recognize who we are, but it also shows that we're working together as the hands and feet of Christ.

Sleep Out for the Homeless – Pausing with Purpose

For many years, our annual Sleep Out for the Homeless has served as a powerful tradition in the life of our church and youth ministry—a night dedicated to raising awareness, compassion, and support for those experiencing homelessness in our community. Through cold nights spent in cardboard boxes, students have gained a glimpse into the hardships others face, and together we've raised funds for organizations that provide vital care and support.

In recent years, we've been blessed to partner with McBIC's youth ministry to continue this tradition. However, after much prayerful consideration and discussion, both youth ministry teams have made the decision to pause the event this year. This was not an easy choice, and we know it will be felt deeply by many in our congregation who have participated, supported, and prayed over this ministry throughout its history.

This pause is not an ending—it is a moment to step back, listen, and reimagine. As times have changed, so too have some of the challenges in running this event. For instance, it has become more difficult to fundraise along Simpson Street, where fewer people carry cash and traffic has dwindled. But more importantly, we want to ensure that the heart behind the event—helping students grow in compassion and understanding—remains strong and effective for years to come.

We are committed to another 30 years of forming students who see and serve the vulnerable in Christ's name. During this season, we are inviting God to help us re-envision what that could look like. We hope to create a new or renewed experience that continues to shape hearts, serve our neighbors, and shine the light of Christ in our community.

We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support as we discern this next step. This is not a sign of a fading tradition, but of a church that is willing to pause, listen, and follow where God is leading—even if that means doing things differently. If you still wish to donate money, you can still earmark donations for the Sleep Out and we will continue to gift it to our local organizations helping to care for our community.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Relationship Builder



Martha Circle

This women's circle meets in the church Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM, and members rotate in helping to lead lessons. Questions can be directed towards Marley Ann Schmick.

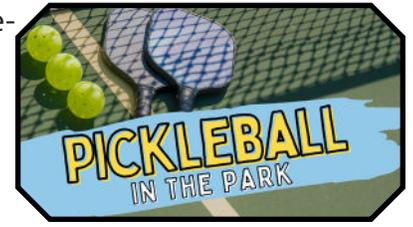
Men's Breakfast – November 1 st and December 6th 7:30 a.m., Brothers Restaurant

An open invitation is extended to all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday of each month (Brothers Restaurant is located at 705 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, 17055). Please contact John Bowen or Bob Wertz, Jr. if you are interested in attending.



Pickleball! Tuesday 5-7 pm

Please join us for Pickleball this November as we return to a consistent schedule of playing indoors in the church multi-purpose room. No experience is necessary. Paddles/balls will be available to borrow if you'd like to learn how to play! Contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611), ext. 112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions or to be added to the Pickleball email list for updates.



Visiting with Friends!

If you miss seeing a special friend at church, Janice Bowen would like to hear from you! Janice is interested in taking people with her for visits so that friends can remain connected by visiting in-person with one another! Whether you find yourself 'stuck at home,' no longer able to get out to church or you are able to get to church, but you are missing your friends who are 'stuck at home.' Either way, Janice would love to hear from you! [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com.

Flu Shots | Sunday, Nov. 2nd, 9-11 a.m.

We will offer flu shots provided by Sandy Leister, RN on November 2nd. There's no need to preregister - simply stop by the welcome kiosk between 9-11 am. Anyone 18 or older is welcome to receive a vaccine. Some insurance plans will be accepted. Without insurance, the flu shot costs \$40 (cash or check, made out to VNA of Central PA). Please contact Janice Bowen ([717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) with questions. Accepted insurances: Medicare B; Medicare B and a secondary insurance; Medicare B and AARP; Medicare B and commercial (supplement); Railroad Medicare B; GHP; GHP Gold; Humana Gold; Humana Choice PPO.

Family Christmas Event | Sat., Dec. 6th, 9-11 a.m.

Save the Date: Family Christmas Event- Sat. Dec. 6th 9-11am- Looking for something exciting for the entire family to do this Christmas? Don't miss Free Family Christmas Event! Join us for an unforgettable Christmas Experience complete with fun, games, and music! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors for a morning to get you in the Christmas spirit and learn about the true meaning of Christmas. This is an event for kids and families to participate all together, this is not a drop-off event. If you have any questions, please email Katie Knorr, Director of Children and Family Ministry at kidscount@fumchurch.com. Registration opens Nov. 9th!

Women's Morning Meet-Up – November 8th, 7:30 a.m., Down To Earth Café

Start your morning with a warm cup of coffee and great company. Order food or a drink, or just grab a seat and connect with other women of faith, share stories, and find support in a welcoming atmosphere. Down to Earth Café is located at 100 Legacy Park Dr. Suite 108, Mechanicsburg, 17055

Wear Your Name Tag!

We encourage everyone to wear their name tags! Name tags help us connect and build relationships within our church family. Need a name tag? Contact the church office.

College Connection

Help us connect with our current population of students away at school or recent grads. Please provide Lisa Aronson at discipleship@fumchurch.com with their updated mailing address. We can't feed their mailbox if we don't have contact information.

Looking for a sign-up?

In the Main Lobby is the Registration Table, where you can register for current studies, fundraisers, events, and more.





Financial Report

Through September 30, 2025

General Fund

2025 Budget	\$869,000
Expected Income YTD	\$651,750 (75.0% of year complete)
Actual Income YTD	\$571,879 (65.8% of budget)
Actual Expenses	\$613,206 (70.6% of budget)

The financial report through September 30 continues to show revenues falling short relative to expectations at this point in the year. We recognize giving happens unevenly throughout the year versus a budget but also recognize with only one quarter remaining in the year and revenues short of expectations by about \$80,000 that it may be unrealistic to assume giving will catch up by year-end. We continue to be fortunate and conservative with expenses and as a result they continue to be less than expected for this point in the year.

Our Parsonage loan currently stands at \$38,386.99 and the Bell Tower Loan principal balance is \$30,272.83. We thank those who continue to give in service of our debt.

We are thankful for all gifts received by our Church in service of its missions and ministries. As we approach the holiday season we ask that you continue to think of the Church as part of your gift-giving. All are welcome to contact Brian Sanker, Finance Committee Chairperson, at sankerb@gmail.com, with any questions on how to support First Church.

Little Free Pantry

Thanks so much for your support of the Little Free Pantry through your donations and monetary contributions. We are slowly building up our supply to stock the pantry, but we still welcome your donations which can be dropped off at the church office or at the Alley Entrance in the marked basket. We are blessed to be able to offer this 'no barrier access point to food' to our neighbors. Questions about the Little Free Pantry, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com. Watch for the **Reverse Advent Collection** to happen in December!

Community Aid Cart

Thank you for placing your donated items in the Community Aid Cart located just inside the Main Entrance doors. Please remember, Clothing and Shoes only are accepted! If you have other items, please take them to the Community Aid store located on the Carlisle Pike. Please do NOT place other items such as linens, blankets, comforters, etc. as we do not get credit for them and they take up space in the cart. If you have any questions about your donation, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

United Women in Faith Baked Good Giveaway, November 2

Support the United Women in Faith World Thank Offering on Sunday, November 2 with your sweet tooth! Stop by the table near the couches (close to the Children's Hallway) to pick up a tasty treat and make a donation to the World Thank Offering. "The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundant grace in the midst of change. When we share our gifts and they are combined with the gifts of others, our contributions make possible the support of national and international work to meet the physical and social needs of women, children, and youth in your neighborhood and around the world." Visit us between worship services for a sweet treat and a chance to help women, children and

youth. If you can donate a baked good, please bring to the display that morning, we'd love your support! Questions about United Women in Faith or the World Thank Offering, contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

Cookie Walk



Calling All Cookie Bakers!



It's time for the annual Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser, the Cookie Walk! This year we will be having our annual cookie walk on Dec 14th. This event has become popular in part because of wonderful bakers like you! Try out a new recipe or stick to grandma's secret recipe. Anything will do! To have a great enough quantity of cookies, we ask bakers to provide 4-5 batches (8-10 dozen) per style of homemade cookie. Fill out the form below (and place it at the display in the main lobby) or sign up on Church Center. Don't forget, cookies freeze well so you can even start baking today. What a great way to get ahead of the Christmas rush. Please help us continue this tradition and raise money for the youth mission trip. Any questions please email Lynn Rapp at minion.youth17@gmail.com. (Cookies need to be at the church no later than 7:00 A.M. on December 14th. They can be placed in the church kitchen before the walk labeled as "COOKIE WALK".) (If baking 4-5 batches is too much, please still reach out – we would love to have what you can make).

Please select 2 types of cookies. We will contact you with the type we need most.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Cookie type

1: _____

Cookie type

2: _____

Would you be willing to make both types? Yes / No

Ringling in the News!

I can't believe it's November already! Of course, I should realize it – we've been practicing Holiday songs for 2 months! Time flies when you're having fun! We thank you for supporting our many events in October. November doesn't look as busy – Ha!

November 15th - Our Ornament making Day! Sign up at our table or on Church Center and bring your family to make some fun ornaments. Samples can be found on our fundraising table! All ages welcome! November 15th – Yes, the same day! We are helping to usher in Santa at the Merchant Day in Mechanicsburg. Come visit him downtown and have your picture taken. Bells will be playing ☒

November 22 – Pie Day! We will be making Pumpkin, Apple (Double Crust or Crumb topping), and Mincemeat as usual. All pies are pre-ordered and can be baked for you or frozen so you can bake them at your leisure.

Texas Roadhouse gift cards will be delivered this month.

AND we thank you for your continued support of our Send a Bell or Chime to Scotland. Find a card with the bell or chime you want to sent – keep the card as a reminder – find the matching envelope and use it for your cash or check (made out to FUMC) placing it in the Scrip box or give it to Kathie Bittenbender. Thank you to all!

Stained Glass Class



Alpha and Omega



There are two stain-glass windows with the greek letter "Alpha" in First Church. One is located on the first floor, the first window near alley entrance in the Sunday School auditorium and the second one is in Room 101, the Church Office.

There is one stain-glass window with the greek letter "Omega". It is located on the first floor the fifth window from the alley entrance in the Sunday School auditorium.

You really can't talk about the Alpha stain glass window without talking about the Omega one, too. For in the Bible, they are paired together. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last. Together these two letters form a symbol for one of the names of Jesus Christ, meaning "the Beginning and the End." In Genesis 1, when God created the heavens and the earth, the term for God in Hebrew "Elohim" is plural. In John 1, when John describes the "Word", he describes it as the Word was with God and the word was God and without him nothing was made that has been made. So, Jesus is there at the beginning creating the heavens and the earth and everything else in it.

The specific verses that use the letters "Alpha" and "Omega" are found in the book of Revelation. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8 (NIV). He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. (Revelation 21:6, (NIV)). "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

(Revelation 22:13, (NIV))

First Church Mission Moments...

**CANNED YAMS
FOR
NEW HOPE
MINISTRIES**



COLLECTING THROUGH
OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 23



**PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS
INSIDE THE TOWER ENTRANCE,
THANK YOU FOR THINKING OF
OTHERS IN THE TIME OF GIVING.**



PACK A SHOEBOX!

Due: Sunday, Nov. 23

Stop by the table in the Main Entrance Hallway to get a box, a label, and learn how to pack a shoebox.



samaritanspurse.org/occ

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANS

SAVE THE DATE

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT

FUMC **KIDS**

A FREE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

SATURDAY, DEC. 6 // 9-11 A.M.

First Church Youth

Youth Ministry at First Church

Are you a student between 4 th and 12 th grade? Check out the format for our Youth Ministry here at First Church and consider plugging in and joining us when you can. We would love to see you at our gatherings. For more information contact Lisa Aronson uthrock@fumchurch.com.

4G YOUTH GROUPS | 6:00-8:00 | 6th-12th Grade

- ◇ **1st Sunday: Large group Gathering** - starts in the youth lounge or gym and begins with a casual time to hang out, play games, and eat snacks. Afterwards, we dig into God's word and listen to a lesson. Our time of learning is a space to ask questions, have discussions, and support you in your spiritual growth.
- ◇ **3rd Sunday: Large Group Gather and Dinner** - similar to the 1 st Sunday, with the addition that we will begin our youth group time with a meal in the Fellowship Hall.

STUDENT SMALL GROUPS | 6:00-7:30| 4th -12th Grade

- ◇ **2nd Sundays:** A chance for small group interaction with Students of Similar Ages. This Space is intended to allow for conversation, questions, and age-appropriate faith topics.
 - Grades 4th - Grade 7th -- Meets at First Church in the gym
 - Grades 8th-12th -- Meets at First Church in the youth lounge

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES |6:00-8:00| 6th -12th Grade

- ◇ **4 th Sunday:** Events will vary and may be at First Church or offsite. Some service opportunities will be open to our younger students (4 th and 5 th graders), but that will be communicated in the information provided.

SPECIAL EVENTS - See Youth Information Page or the Youth Ministry Event page on Church Center for dates, times, and event information.

**Special events may alter the pattern of Sundays*

What does the 4G mean? It is our statement of purpose for the youth ministry. While we want Youth Group to be a fun place where you can spend time with your friends, we want to make sure that we GATHER together to GROW as we GAIN from God's Word and learn to GIVE back to God in how we live and treat others. (It is also handy to have a 2-letter way of referencing Youth Group for when a text message only allows a certain number of characters.)

Upcoming Youth Events:

November 16 th – Friendsgiving

December 13 th – Cookie Walk Fundraiser



Happy Birthday

Help us celebrate special birthdays for our church members turning 80 or older!



Liz Nesmith.....November 4	Joyce Woods.....December 1
Mary Cain.....November 11	Don Mowrey.....December 8
Paul Cain.....November 11	Darlis Aumiller.....December 21
Pat Bricker.....November 23	Sandy Coover.....December 28
Patricia Marr.....November 23	
Marlin Lehmer.....November 24	
Jeanne Eakin-Miller...November 26	



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cain married 68 years November 1, 1957.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Leon Bricker married 66 years November 19, 1960.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Don Coldren married 63 years November 24, 1962.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meck married 73 years November 25, 1952.

FIRST NEWS FIRST
EDITORS: Kelsey Goll

The **deadline** for submitting articles
for the Dec./Jan. 2025 issue is **Nov. 15**.
Early submissions always appreciated!